

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 OMB-01

AID-05 /092 W

----- 091744

R 021706Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2973

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

US LIAISON OFFICE PEKING 8

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CH, ML

SUBJ: CHINESE HOLD A HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

1. A CHINESE COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL EXHIBIT WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HOLIDAY (TABASKI, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR) SEASON IN BAMAKO. VICE PRESIDENT BABA DIARRA PRESIDED DECEMBER 5 OVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH MINISTER OF FINANCE FOUNEKE KEITA CHARACTERIZED AS A SYMBOL OF THE VITALITY OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MALI. EMPHASIZING THE CHINESE REVOLUTION'S PROGRESS IN PROVIDING A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE, THE EXHIBIT DISPLAYED A FASCINATING VARIETY OF GOODS FROM AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND ELECTRONIC GADEGETRY TO FINE RUGS AND PORCELAIN. ATTENDANCE WAS GOOD THROUGHOUT THE 17 DAY SHOW. THE MALIANS WERE MOST ATTRACTED BY THE FARM MACHINERY AND THE DISPLAYS OF FOOD CROPS.

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SOME CONSUMER PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY, INCLUDING INEXPENSIVE

TOYS, WERE POPULAR ITEMS IN STATE RETAIL STORES THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

2. COMMENT: THE EXHIBITION'S EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE WAS A DIFFICULT MESSAGE FOR MALIANS WHO ARE TOTALLY RELIANT ON EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE RUSSIAN CHARGE SARCASTICALLY COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT INSTEAD OF PROVING SELF-RELIANCE, THE EXHIBITION PROVED THE EFFICACY OF RUSSIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SINCE MOST OF THE FACTORIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PICTURED AT THE EXHIBITION HAD BEEN BUILT WITH RUSSIAN AID.
DAWKINS

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